



## Mount Merrion Parish Newsletter

1st November 2020

[www.mountmerrionparish.ie](http://www.mountmerrionparish.ie)

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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

[www.mountmerrionparish.ie](http://www.mountmerrionparish.ie)

### PARISH NEWS

Delighted to share that the tap and pay terminal in the church has just passed through €5,000 of donations, all monies here to support the parish.

The Donate button on the website has passed €10,000 in donations for different church needs, support of priests and special collections.

We have installed a new PZT camera for the web streaming of liturgies from the church. This camera can bring us images from different parts of the church, from the baptistery to the altar, the organ and chair and more. Please connect to the web stream from the parish website. We are no longer with MCN media.

We will need to reduce the size of the trees opposite the church door near the stables and cut back the overhanging branches as we have new neighbours there and we need to care for their safety.

We are planning some illuminations of the church grounds for the Christmas season to bring some light and joy to the darkest months.

The current parish overdraft at the bank is around €225,000.



Our sympathies to the family, relatives and friends of **Brian Doyle and Elizabeth Fallon** whose funerals took place here this week.

### A few words from Fr Joe.....

Three images from the news last night caused me to stop and wonder what life is all about. The first was of a candle lit vigil in Ballinteer, a community responding to the death of two children and a mother in their estate. The neighbours were stunned into silence and the moved into an action that showed to the wide world that they are a community with a big heart.

The family that suffered this unbelievable loss hadn't lived among them for long, but these neighbours had a well-established sense of their own social connections, they knew well what it means to welcome the stranger, to live in solidarity with each other and to how to act in the face of tragedy.

To stand in silence, with a candle in hand, brings heartfelt love to loss and expresses a hope that is hard to put into words. In the creation story light was the first expression of God creating a home for his people and on every Easter Saturday night it is light we carry into the darkness of the empty church, as a symbol that God's love is stronger than any human darkness.

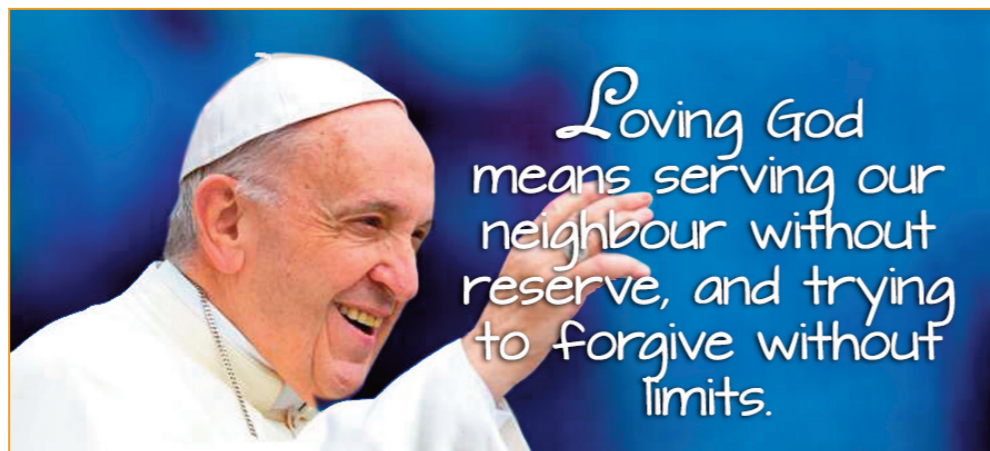
The second was a short film clip that is often shown on the news when Mother and Baby homes are being discussed. It shows us rows and rows of metal framed cots, with immaculate white bedding and tiny toddlers lying on their backs, kicking up the legs, as babies do. There is no adult in the image, no mother, or carers, no nuns, nurses or staff, just the little ones.

This image always moves me to hope that a bell will ring, the door open and all the actions, sounds and activity that we associate with the care of children will be seen. I see the image in my mind in colour and project some love, warmth and compassion into this unbearably stark image. Surely no human heart could be satisfied with the clinical chill of the image.

The third image was of a wave in Donegal. A huge wave, curling at the top, and in the tunnel a young man on a surf board, riding the wave. The TV was muted when I saw it first and I could only marvel at the power of nature, the beauty of the wave itself and the incredible skill of the surfer, strong, courageous and accomplished.

We have been given the gift of life and day by day we are challenged to make the most of it with an awareness of our own gifts, of the needs of others and with a deep desire to care and protect each other and the earth itself.

This is God's plan, our daily task and we must never tire of doing the right thing.



### MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday 1st November ALL SAINTS

10.00 Desmond McAleese – A  
Ristard O'Colmain – A  
Bonnie O'Reilly – A  
Kevin Barry – A  
Kevin Adams – R.D.

Monday 2nd November

10.00 For all who are ill  
Tuesday 3rd November

10.00 Liturgical Service

Wednesday 4th November

10.00 Holy Souls

Thursday 5th November

10.00

Friday 6th November

10.00 Altar Lists

Saturday 7th November

Sunday 8th November

10.00 Kathleen Fitzgerald – A

Lily Hollingsworth – A

Mary Lannin – A

7.30 Annual Mass for deceased parishioners



### Annual Mass for the Deceased Parishioners Sunday 8th November 2020 at 7.30pm

Mass will be offered for all those whose funerals took place in the Parish of St. Therese from October 2019 to date.

Those who were bereaved during that period have been personally invited to participate in this Mass through live-stream.

Members of the Funeral Ministry Team will prepare the liturgy and assist at the Mass.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE



The feast of All Saints celebrates the true life in Christ that we are all called to live.

The **First Reading** is a vision of the heavenly realm. It reminds us of the community of Saints who have gone before us, those inspirational people who embodied their love of Christ through their words and deeds.

The **Psalms** celebrates a vision of the world vibrant with the reality of God's presence in creation and his people. We are blessed when we are able to see the Lord throughout the whole of creation.

In St John's letter, we are encouraged to think of the love that has been lavished upon us by being called God's children. This is a truth that we need to pause and ponder upon to let it truly transform how we see ourselves and each other. **(Second Reading)**

Today's **Gospel** is Jesus's teaching on the Beatitudes: a teaching that finds holiness both in the depths of human experience of loss, poverty and persecution, and in the expressions of compassion in response towards these sufferings. The lives of the Saints and of countless others have been transformed by their deep truth.

These teachings speak to the difficult realities of our times too. Many live in poverty, or are innocent victims of war; many mourn lives cut short by the Covid virus; others are persecuted for their beliefs. Let us hold all of these members of our human family in our prayer this coming week and pray for each other, that we may awaken to our true selves as lavishly loved children of God.



We continue to welcome in a particular way those children who are preparing to celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion for the first time next year. Our focus this month is on introducing them to the different ways in which our parish family remembers and prays for those who have died during the month of November. We can all try to do this during the coming weeks.